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### Title

*Kingsmill Plantations 1619-1800: Archeology of Country Life in Colonial Virginia*. By William Kelso. Studies in Historical Archeology. Orlando, Florida: Academic Press, Inc., 1984. Pp. xix-236, illustrations, maps, notes, etc.

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complete subservience to the Soviet Union which limited its popularity and flexibility. This criticism is not surprising, given that Furci's own organization—the Italian Communist Party—has broken with the Soviet Union. Yet, with the realistic (except toward the military) strategy and popular support of the CCP (17% in the 1973 elections), Furci's criticism may be politically motivated.

Although the Pinochet regime destroyed most of the records concerning the Chilean Left, Furci was able to piece together a reliable history through extensive interviews of exiled Chileans and a small archive in the Soviet Union. Furci's work is at times repetitive, but a solid piece of scholarship recommended for students of both Chilean history and Latin American revolutionary movements.

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*Kingsmill Plantations 1619-1800: Archeology of Country Life in Colonial Virginia.* By WILLIAM KELSO. Studies in Historical Archeology. Orlando, Florida: Academic Press, Inc., 1984. Pp. xix-236, illustrations, maps, notes, appendices, bibliography, index. \$45.00.

In recent years historians, archaeologists, and combinations of the two have analyzed relics to understand the American past and cultural patterns better. Most notable is Ivor Noel Hume's study of Carter's Grove, Virginia, *Martin's Hundred*. Hume's colleague on the project, William Kelso, simultaneously happened on seven adjacent plantation sites nearby, collectively known today as Kingsmill Plantation. Twelve years later, with the help of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the properties' owner, Anheuser-Busch, Kelso proves equal to Hume's task of portraying rural colonial Virginia. He traces the contours of the society from the "grand" style of the aristocracy to the lives, "something less," of tenants and slaves, and he sets forth archeological documentation of artifacts discovered during excavation. On both counts he succeeds admirably in treating his subject with compendious grace and making insightful inferences by transcending the "fine line" between the two disciplines and integrating the thought of both.

Kelso begins by describing the context of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Virginia. Drawing on Bernard Bailyn's and especially Edmund Morgan's ideas, he paints the toil, disease, and death of the fledgling colony, the viable community rooted in tobacco, the fighting amongst the homegrown planters, incoming elite, freedmen, and government, and the

stable, slave-based plantation system of the 1700s. While covering familiar terrain, he synthesizes recent scholarship handily.

Next, using contemporaneous documents, Kelso untangles the involved progression of his James River locale within this broad sweep. His focus is on the Littletown and Kingsmill tracts and their primary owners, the Pettus, Bray, and (Lewis) Burwell families. Thomas Pettus, who sold Littletown to the Brays in the 1660s, was a transient. With the aid of a single tenant and the expectation of returning to England, he made a handsome, but not substantial, profit from his sot-weed holdings. On the other hand, James Bray II put his small inheritance into Littletown and forged a stake in the Virginia soil as a leading planter by 1700. The Burwells, owners of Kingsmill, who eventually married into the Brays and thereby acquired Littletown, were even wealthier. In short, this particular Tidewater history conforms to the composite of a maturing plantation culture marked by increasing gradations of wealth and led by an inbred gentry seeking self-sufficiency.

Finally, working within Hume's and James Deetz's framework, Kelso looks at his architectural and artifactual discoveries. Here his effort is most prodigious. He has scrutinized endless postholes and root cellars, and assiduously catalogued shards of pottery and glass. The result is further corroboration of his and Morgan's interpretation. Perhaps due to the instability of the market or his projected departure, Pettus owned only a modest earthfast "hall-parlor" house, whereas the long line of Burwells lived in a brick manor at the center of an expanding, self-enclosed community complete with formal garden, dairy, and slave barracks.

Archaeological pitfalls and some questionable historical generalizations, especially regarding slave life notwithstanding, Kelso has broken valuable new ground. By reconstructing the friable fragments of soil and relic within a historical mold, he has produced a sturdier theoretical vessel regarding daily colonial life.

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*The Heyday of American Communism: The Depression Decade.* By HARVEY KLEHR. New York: Basic Books, 1984. Pp. xiv + 511. Notes, index. \$26.50.

Harvey Klehr's *The Heyday of American Communism* is the first full-scale history of the American Communist Party during its most influential decade. As such, it fills in the last remaining gap in the written record of